

**The Urban District Council of Hexham**

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# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**of**

**The Medical Officer of Health**

**and**

**The Chief Public Health Inspector**

**For the Year 1971**

**J. M. McEWAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.**

**Medical Officer of Health**

**STAFF**

J. M. McEWAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health

J. K. PATTERSON, M.A.P.H.I.  
Chief Public Health Inspector

R. GARDENER, M.A.P.H.I.  
Assistant Public Health Inspector

A. SUMMERS, Clerk



*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council  
of Hexham :*

Mr. CHAIRMAN, GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1971.

The town of Hexham remains virtually unchanged from year to year, although its progress is evident over a longer period. As a market town and the administrative and cultural centre for a large surrounding area Hexham is busy and prosperous. The main sources of employment are shops and offices and catering establishments. There is however a reasonable diversity of occupation, particularly with the development of two small industrial estates. As an ancient town of historic and architectural interest, with the large open spaces of the Sele and Tyne Green, and within easy reach of the Roman Wall, it attracts many visitors and the licensed caravan sites increase every year. There are ample facilities for recreation, to which will be added swimming, now that progress has at least been made in building an enclosed swimming pool. There is however insufficient local employment for all the young people and for the professional class, many of whom find employment in Newcastle or further afield. The result is a preponderance of older people, and this is reflected in the stationary population and the vital statistics. The proposed reform of local government will mean the loss of autonomy of the District Council, but it seems probable that the town will increase in importance as the administrative centre of the new district authority.

The population increased during 1971 by no more than 110, the figure now being 9,950. There was also a small increase of deaths over births. The birth rate at 14 per 1,000 population was slightly below the national average, and the death rate slightly above it. There were four deaths under one year of age, giving an infant mortality of 29.62 per 1,000 live births compared with 18.0 for the rest of the country, but two of these deaths occurred after the fourth week of life, and the infant mortality rate under four weeks is much more favourable at 14.8 per 1,000 live births. The causes of death in the children under four weeks was in each case prematurity, which can be considered unavoidable. Of the deaths after infancy, rather more than half were of persons

aged 75 and over, and the most frequent causes of death were as in previous years, diseases of the heart and circulation.

The infectious diseases, which once took up a large part of the Annual Report, are now of relatively little importance as a subject of comment. Of 41 cases notified 38 were of measles, and it is to be expected that this disease too will become less common as preventive inoculation in infancy has its effect. No cases of tuberculosis were notified, and it caused no deaths.

The Council built no new houses during 1971, but work proceeded well with the building of 41 flats in sheltered accommodation at St. Cuthbert's Close. While offering the benefits of central heating, communal rooms and the supervision by a warden to so many frail and elderly people, it will free houses for family use. Modernisation of other Council houses is proceeding, and it is hoped to improve all the older property in the course of the next two years. In the private sector satisfactory use is being made of improvement grants to bring older houses up to modern standards, a process accelerated by the recent large increase in the grant allowance.

The Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, as statutory water undertakers, continue to supply almost all properties, but a few private supplies remain. The mains water is of satisfactory quality and quantity, rather low in natural fluoroide and not unduly plumbo-solvent. The Gunnerton supply continues to be brought up to one part per million by added fluoroide. The Company take regular samples, the results of which are made known to the Health Department, and deal promptly with complaints or unsatisfactory samples. The Health Department remains responsible for the few private supplies.

The report of the Consulting Engineers and their recommendations on improvement to the sewage treatment works and the sewerage system of the town was received during the year, and the Council agreed to carry out the proposals at a cost of some three-quarters of a million pounds.

The Health Committee consists of the whole Council, and I am grateful to them for their continued interest in the work of the Department. I am grateful too to the Clerk and other officers for their help and co-operation, and record with pleasure my appreciation of the excellent work done by the staff during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. M. McEWAN,

*Medical Officer of Health*

## STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres .. .. .	5,932
Estimated Population .. .. .	9,950

### Vital Statistics

#### BIRTHS :

LIVE BIRTHS	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate.. .. .	71	60	131
Illegitimate .. .. .	2	2	4
			<hr/> 135

STILL BIRTHS	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate.. .. .	—	1	1
Illegitimate .. .. .	—	—	—
			<hr/> 1

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population .. .. .	14.03
Total Live and Still Births .. .. .	136
Total (Live and Still) Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population .. .. .	14.48
Still-births Rate per 1,000 live and still-births .. .. .	7.35
Live Birth Rate, England and Wales, per 1,000 population.. .. .	16.0
Still-births Rate, England and Wales, per 1,000 live and still-births .. .. .	12.0

#### DEATHS :

Total deaths .. .. .	143
Total infant deaths .. .. .	4
Infant deaths under four weeks .. .. .	2
Deaths of infants under one year of age :—	
Legitimate infants .. .. .	4
Illegitimate infants .. .. .	Nil
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 live births .. .. .	29.62
Infantile Mortality, England and Wales, per 1,000 live births .. .. .	18.0
Infantile Mortality (Legitimate) per 1,000 Legitimate births .. .. .	30.53
Infantile Mortality (Illegitimate) per 1,000 Illegitimate live births .. .. .	Nil



Infantile Mortality (first four weeks) per 1,000 live births .. .. .	.81
Infantile Mortality (under one week of age) per 1,000 live births .. .. .	14. 1
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Still-births and deaths under one week combined) per 1,000 total live and still-births .. .. .	22.05
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	2.96
Deaths from Maternal causes.. .. .	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births .. .. .	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .. .. .	26
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (all causes and ages) .. .. .	12.64
Death Rate England and Wales per 1,000 population (all causes and ages) .. .. .	11.6

The following Table classifies deaths according to their age groups :—

	Male	Female
0—1	4	—
1—4	1	—
5—14	1	—
15—24	—	—
25—34	—	—
35—44	1	—
45—54	6	5
55—64	8	4
65—74	24	10
75 and Over	31	48
	76	67

The chief causes of death are as follows :—

	M.	F.
Bacillary dysentery, amoebiasis .. .. .	1	—
Malignant neoplasm—stomach .. .. .	1	1
—intestine .. .. .	2	3
—larynx .. .. .	2	—
—lung, bronchus .. .. .	3	2
—breast .. .. .	—	3
—uterus .. .. .	—	2
—prostate .. .. .	2	—
Other malignant neoplasms .. .. .	1	4
Anaemias .. .. .	1	—
Mental disorders .. .. .	—	1
Hypertensive disease .. .. .	1	—
Ischaemic heart disease .. .. .	26	18
Other forms of heart disease .. .. .	1	2
Cerebrovascular disease .. .. .	9	14
Other diseases of circulatory system .. .. .	4	3
Pneumonia .. .. .	3	1
Bronchitis and emphysema .. .. .	3	2
Other diseases of respiratory system .. .. .	2	—
Peptic ulcer .. .. .	3	—
Intestinal obstruction and hernia .. .. .	—	1
Other diseases of digestive system .. .. .	2	—
Other diseases, genito-urinary system .. .. .	—	1
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system .. .. .	1	—
Birth injury, difficult labour .. .. .	1	—
Other causes of perinatal mortality .. .. .	1	—
Symptoms and ill defined conditions .. .. .	—	1
All other accidents .. .. .	5	6
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries .. .. .	—	2
All other external causes .. .. .	1	—
All causes .. .. .	76	67
TOTAL .. .. .	143	



## INFANT MORTALITY

During Year ending 31st December, 1971

Causes of Death	Under 1 week	Total Deaths Under 1 year
Prematurity ..	2	2
Bronchiolitis ..	—	1
Asphyxia .. ..	—	1
TOTALS ..	2	4

## VITAL & MORTALITY STATISTICS.

Year	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1951	14.1	13.6	38.2
1952	13.7	11.4	62.0
1953	13.2	11.09	24.0
1954	12.7	10.8	33.05
1955	14.2	10.7	22.3
1956	13.7	13.05	15.2
1957	15.4	12.2	27.2
1958	13.2	14.7	32.3
1959	15.8	12.06	40.6
1960	15.9	12.4	6.6
1961	13.7	13.9	15.3
1962	14.3	12.9	7.2
1963	13.9	12.2	22.2
1964	15.3	11.3	20.2
1965	14.4	11.5	21.4
1966	15.8	12.6	19.5
1967	17.8	11.7	—
1968	14.9	12.9	33.4
1969	11.9	13.5	54.0
1970	15.2	11.1	14.1
1971	14.0	12.6	29.6

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1971

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	At all Ages	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 & upward	Age not known
Measles .. ..	38	2	2	15	18	1	1	1	1	1
Sonne Dysentery ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Infectious Hepatitis ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Malaria .. ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
TOTALS .. ..	41	2	2	15	19	1	1	1	1	1

## TUBERCULOSIS.—New cases and Mortality during 1971:

Age periods	New Cases				Nett Deaths in Hexham Urban District			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulm.		Pulmonary		Non Pulm.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—4 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—34 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—44 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—54 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—64 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

**FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS (CORRECTED)**  
**RETURNED TO REGISTRAR GENERAL**

1ST QTR.	2ND QTR.	3RD QTR.	4TH QTR.	TOTAL
Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

## OUTBREAKS DUE TO IDENTIFIED AGENTS

Total Outbreaks—Nil.      Total Cases—Nil.      Total Deaths— Nil.

## OUTBREAKS DUE TO :—

(a) Chemical Poisons	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
(b) Salmonella Organisms	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
(c) Staphylococci (including toxin)	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
(d) Cl. Botulinum	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
(e) Other Bacteria	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.

## OUTBREAKS OF UNDISCOVERED CAUSE :

Total Outbreaks—Nil..      Total Cases—Nil.      Total Deaths—Nil.

## SINGLE CASES :

Agent identified—Nil.      Unknown cause—Nil.      Total—Nil.



## HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA

### 1. Hospitals

There are in the district two hospitals, namely the Hexham General Hospital and the Hexham War Memorial Hospital under the management of the Hexham and District Hospital Management Committee. These hospitals together with others in the area under the Hexham and District Hospital Management Committee and the Newcastle group of hospitals are available to cases from the area.

Cases of infectious diseases requiring admission to hospital are referred to the City Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Newcastle upon Tyne.

### 2. Ambulance Service

The British Red Cross acting as agents for the Northumberland County Council provide an ambulance service which serves the district. An ambulance station is situated at West Orchard, Hexham.

### 3. Home Help Service

The Northumberland County Council Home Help Service is in operation in the district. Home Helps are available to householders where such help is required and their services are obtained through the office of the Social Services Department.

### 4. Local Authority Clinics

The following Clinics are held in the district :

Child Welfare Clinic : Abbey House, Hexham.

Friday, 9-30 a.m. — 12 a.m. and 1-30 p.m. — 4 p.m.

Ante-Natal Clinic : Abbey House, Hexham.

Second and third Tuesdays in every month, 1-30 p.m.  
— 4 p.m.

First, second and third Wednesdays in every month,  
1-30 p.m. — 4 p.m.

Women's Advisory Clinic : Abbey House, Hexham.

Every Thursday, 2 p.m. — 4 p.m.

Cervical Cytology Clinic : Abbey House, Hexham.

Fourth and fifth Wednesdays in each month, 2 p.m. —  
4 p.m.

Relaxation Clinic : Abbey House, Hexham.

Every Tuesday, 1-30 p.m. — 4 p.m.

## **5. Midwifery and Home Nursing**

These services are administered by the Northumberland County Council and in this district are combined. There are two Nurse Midwives working in the Hexham Urban District.

**REPORT OF THE  
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
(Mr. J. K. PATTERSON)**

The work of the public health inspectors has continued during the year, coping as it does with the day to day environmental problems of the town. It is not as a general rule a matter for headlines. This is, of course, in many ways a good thing, since probably in no other sphere of local government is the small incident blown up out of all proportion to its true value.

Taken all round, the year's results can be said to be satisfactory, and in order to secure this, the department is conscious of the co-operation of the various business people and their employees, and it is right that this should be acknowledged. There is no doubt that anyone responsible for a business today must, if he is to keep abreast of the many and varying Acts and Regulations, be at least a part-time legal expert.

During the year a special effort was made to ensure satisfactory stock rotation, this in particular with regard to short-life shelf foods. Several food traders were persuaded to use a simple type of coding for these products. As a result of this, and continuing efforts, few if any genuine complaints of outdated stock were received, and in no case was the product concerned 'unfit', there being a safety margin in the coding system.

The qualification certificate procedure contained in the Housing Act 1969 was used by an increasing number of landlords. The system has worked smoothly during the year. Towards the end of the period, work was commenced in co-operation with the surveyor's department, to persuade landlords of sub-standard properties to carry out improvements, and this policy will no doubt produce satisfactory results in the ensuing year.



## INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Factories and Workplaces .. .. .	119
Milk and Dairies .. .. .	43
Drainage Works : Alterations—additions .. .. .	21
New Constructions .. .. .	17
Water Supply .. .. .	59
Food Premises .. .. .	593
Slaughter House .. .. .	536
Caravan Control .. .. .	108
Clean Air .. .. .	12
Visits, Public Health Acts .. .. .	393
Offices Shops and Railway Premises Act .. .. .	136
Noise Abatement Act .. .. .	27
TOTAL .. .. .	2,064

## PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

### Drainage works :

All drainage work is examined and tested in accordance with the building regulations made under the above acts.

Total length of 4" drain .. .. .	2,579 ft.
"          "          6"          " .. .. .	—
Improvements to existing properties,	
domestic .. .. .	23
New properties, domestic .. .. .	4
Trade premises .. .. .	14

### Notifiable diseases :

All cases of notifiable infectious diseases, and as appropriate, contacts of cases were investigated and any necessary action taken.

There are no Common Lodging Houses within the area.

### Disinfestation :

It was not found necessary to carry out any full-scale disinfestation of property during the year.

During the breeding season the Council's refuse tip at Frankham Quarry was regularly sprayed with tip dressing and a satisfactory degree of insect control was achieved.

The service contractor employed by the Council dealt with 31 cases of wasps nests and 19 complaints of house ants. No cases gave cause for undue concern.

### Swimming Pool :

The privately owned swimming pool which is used by the public continued to be maintained in a satisfactory manner. 4 samples were taken for bacteriological purity and all were found to be satisfactory.

### Water supply :

The town's supply is provided in all but a small number of isolated properties by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, and no difficulties arose during the year. The ready co-operation by the Company's officials and this department is much appreciated. The exchange of sampling data continued.

Samples obtained during the year by the  
 department . . . . . 43  
 all of which were found to be satisfactory.

Sampling of the few private supplies is carried out on a rota basis, and again the results were satisfactory.

### Typical Analyses of Water from Ladle Wells and Gunnerton

Samples taken at			<i>Gunnerton</i>	<i>Ladle Wells</i>
pH Value	..	..	7.0	7.4
Colour..	..	..	3°H.	0°H.
Turbidity	..	..	0	0
Hardness	..	..	64	26
Alkalinity	..	..	32	45
Chloride	..	..	14	9
Sulphate	..	..	30	14
Ammonia	..	..	.06	.02
Iron ..	..	..	.02	.05
Manganese	..	..	< .05	Not detected
Oxygen Absorbed	..		.04	0
Fluoride	..	..	0.1 average 0.2 max.	0.1 max.

### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

The 98 food premises, (see Table below), within the district have been visited on a systematic basis during the year, and their standard in general remains satisfactory.

No major changes in the type of food premises were noted during the year, and the up-grading of existing premises continued. As mentioned in this report's introduction, special attention was given to correct stock rotation. This is not unfortunately a simple matter to resolve, not least because the average customer tends to disturb the displays, thereby nullifying in some cases the traders' efforts in this direction. However in the main, good progress was made in this important sphere of food hygiene.

The following table details the food premises within the district :—

Type of Business	Total No.	No. complying with Reg. 16	Premises to which Reg. 19 applies	Number fitted to comply with Reg. 19
Bakehouses .. ..	5	5	5	5
Butchers .. ..	9	9	9	9
Grocers .. ..	19	19	19	19
Catering				
Establishments ..	19	19	19	19
Public houses ..	9	9	—	—
Greengrocers ..	7	7	7	7
Wet fish shops ..	3	3	3	3
Fried fish shops ..	3	3	3	3
Ice-cream dealers/ sweets .. ..	18	18	—	—
Confectioners ..	6	6	6	6

### Ice-cream Heat Treatment Regulations

There are 3 registered manufacturers in the district, one of whom operated a heat treatment plant, the remaining 2 using a proprietary cold mix method. All three plants were visited regularly and a high standard was maintained throughout the year.

There are 46 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream and no case of unsatisfactory handling was found during the year.



Number of new registrations during the year ..	Nil
Number of samples collected .. .. .	14

Results of examination :—

Grade 1 ..	13
„ 2 ..	—
„ 3 ..	1
„ 4 ..	—

### **Milk Special Designation Regulations 1960**

The Hexham Dairy Company licensed as a heat treatment (pasteurising) and bottling plant, has once again served the local community well, producing as it does a consistently high product. During the year further improvements to the plant were carried out and at all times it was found to be satisfactory.

Close co-operation is maintained and valued with the County Health Department in regard to the efficiency of the pasteurising plant. The following samples were collected during the year by that authority.

For methylene blue test .. .. .	26
For phosphatase test .. .. .	26

All samples submitted passed the appropriate test.

### **Brucellosis**

Sampling of farm bottled (non-accredited) milk supplied by Hexham Dairy Company was carried out in accordance with Circular 17/66 of the Department of Health. All the samples obtained were negative. The producer retailer in the area is accredited under the Brucellosis (Accredited Herds) Scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and no action has been necessary by this department.

Number of raw milk samples obtained for brucella investigation .. .. .	12
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During the year, 2 samples of untreated cream were submitted for bacterial examination. All were found to be satisfactory.

### **The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963**

(i) Number of egg pasteurisation plants in the district .. .. .	Nil
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(ii)	Number of samples of liquid egg submitted to the Alpha-Amylase test and their results	Nil
(iii)	Comments on the year's administration of these Regulations .. .. .	—

### **Poultry Inspection**

(i)	Number of poultry processing premises within the district .. .. .	Nil
(ii)	Number of visits to these premises ..	Nil
(iii)	Total number of birds processed during the year .. .. .	Nil
(iv)	Types of birds processed .. .. .	Nil
(v)	Percentage of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption .. .. .	Nil
(vi)	Weight of poultry condemned as unfit for human consumption .. .. .	Nil
(vii)	Comments on poultry processing and inspection .. .. .	Nil

### **The Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations 1966**

These regulations continue to be satisfactorily observed. The stalls in the Council's open air market are visited regularly, minor infringements being drawn to the traders' attention as the need arises.

The various mobile shops operating within the area, mainly owned by the larger firms, are checked from time to time, no serious contravention of the regulations being observed during the year.

FOOD INSPECTION

UNSOUND FOOD				Surrendered	Seized	Legal Pro- ceedings
				st.	lbs.	
Beef (Home-killed)	..			190	6	—
Beef (Imported)	..			—	—	—
Mutton (Home-killed)	..			29	8	—
Mutton (Imported)	..			—	—	—
Pork	..	..	..	8	13	—
Game..	..	..	..	—	—	—
Poultry	..	..	..	—	—	—
Veal	..	..	..	7	6	—
				lbs.	ozs.	
Fish	..	..	..	—	—	—
Fruit	..	..	..	—	—	—
Canned Goods (Meat)	..			10	8	—
“ “ (Assorted)				13	5	—
Bacon	..	..	..	—	—	—
Cheese	..	..	..	—	—	—
Butter	..	..	..	—	—	—
Lard	..	..	..	—	—	—
Eggs	..	..	..	—	—	—
Other Foods..	..	..	..	7	0	—
Frozen Foods	..	..	..	15	2	—

TOTAL : 282 st. 6lbs. 0ozs.



**CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN  
WHOLE OR IN PART**

	Cattle excl'd'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Totals
Number killed ..	1,420	33	9	5,135	1,647	8,244
Number not inspected ..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i> Whole carcases con- demned ..	3	4	—	21	—	28
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ..	18	3	1	60	23	105
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and and cysticerci ..	1.47	21.2	11.1	1.5	1.3	
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i> Whole carcases con- demned ..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
<i>C. Bovis</i> Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ..	Nil	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
Carcases submitted to treatment by refriger- ation ..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
Generalised and totally condemned ..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	

**NUMBER OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AT THE ABATTOIR**

Steers	Heifers	Cows Bulls	Calves	Sheep Lambs	Rams Ewes	Pigs	Sows Boars
121	1,286	33	10	5,013	142	1,503	127

SUMMARY OF UNSOUND MEAT AND OFFAL

	Tuberculosis	Other Diseases	Total
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Cows .. ..	Nil.	2,135	2,135
Other Animals ..	Nil.	6,382	6,382
TOTAL ..	Nil.	8,517	8,517

All unsound meat and offal condemned at the Abattoir is collected by a processing firm from Gateshead where it is sterilized under supervision.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1933-54

Renewals of Licences to Slaughter .. .. 2

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The control of pests in domestic premises and all of the various buildings occupied by the Council, is carried out on the Council's behalf by a servicing company who have continued to give a satisfactory service, and is appreciated by the public.

In regard to trade premises, advice and instructions are readily given on preventative measures. In several cases a regular contract has been negotiated with the servicing company.

No reports of any rat infestation of the Council's sewers were received during the year.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
Number of properties in district .. ..	4,190	60
Total number of properties inspected following notification .. .. .	98	1
Number infested by rats .. .. .	43	1
Number infested by mice .. .. .	29	—
Number of properties inspected other than by notification .. .. .	18	—
Number infested by rats .. .. .	2	—
Number infested by mice .. .. .	1	—

## PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

This Act lays down standards for the keeping of a pet shop, it being an offence to do so from unlicensed premises. Those premises licensed continue to operate to the department's satisfaction.

## AGRICULTURE, SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE (PROVISIONS), ACT 1956

Sections 3 and 5 of this Act are administered by the local authority, There are 36 farms and holdings within the district.

The arrangements provided by the owners have been found to be satisfactory in relation to the size of the premises.



**SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT 1964**

Under the provisions of this Act registration of dealers is carried out by the local authority, the Act being administered by the Police.

There are 7 registered dealers within the district.

## OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

In general the various provisions of this Act continue to be satisfactorily complied with. Those infringements noted relate only to minor matters, and have usually been dealt with at the time of the inspection.

Newly opened premises are visited within a short period of commencing business, and the necessary and relevant provisions of the Act are discussed with the person responsible. In a small number of cases the need for registration has not been apparent to the trader concerned, but in general little difficulty has arisen.

**Table A : Registrations and General Inspections**

CLASS OF PREMISES	Number Newly registered during year	Total number at end of year	Number of general inspections
Offices .. .. .	2	76	12
Retail shops .. .. .	1	107	36
Wholesale shops, warehouses .. .. .	—	2	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens .. .. .	—	17	6
Fuel storage depots .. .. .	—	1	—
Totals .. .. .	3	203	55

**Table B : Number of visits of all kinds .. .. . 136**

**Table C : Analysis of Persons Employed**

Class of workplace	Number of persons employed
Offices .. .. .	432
Retail shops .. .. .	711
Wholesale departments, warehouses .. .. .	9
Catering establishments open to the public/canteens .. .. .	94
Fuel storage depots .. .. .	2
TOTAL : .. .. .	1248
(Males 474 : Females 774)	

**FACTORIES ACT, 1961****Inspections** (Including Inspections by Public Health Inspector).

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(I) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .. .. .	2	2	—	—
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .. .. .	76	108	2	—
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' Premises) ..	5	9	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b> ..	83	119	2	—

**CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND**

PARTICULARS	Number of Cases in which Defects were found				No. of cases in which pro- secutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M.I.	By H.M.I.	
Want of Cleanliness .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	2	2	—	—	—
(c) Not Separate for Sexes..	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences (not including Offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL .. ..	2	2	—	—	—

There are no Registered Outworkers within the district.



## **CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT 1960**

There are six licensed sites within the district, five of which were operating during the year, providing a total of 493 pitches of which the Racecourse site contributed 60, these being limited to a 72 hour stay only.

The development of the sixth site for 105 vans, part touring and part holiday, commenced in the latter part of the year and should be open for the 1972 season.

No major problems occurred in the running of the sites during the year. One of the existing sites was acquired by a new owner and subject to satisfactory planning approval it is intended to provide additional facilities. Following Circular 75/71 from the Department of the Environment, the fire equipment requirements were checked by the Fire Authority and where thought necessary, the owners were requested to provide additional equipment.

The supervision and control of facilities for some 1500/2000 additional residents presents the department with an additional burden during the peak holiday period in particular. At all times the various sites were operated satisfactorily.

## **CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956**

The trend towards the installation of gas-fired equipment both in domestic and trade premises has continued. These conversions have been particularly marked in private houses, and in the case of those owned by the Council virtually all modernisation schemes and improvements on a more minor scale have concerned the installation of gas fires and boiler units.

The result of these conversions and other measures suggested by the department during the year can be seen in the greatly improved environment of the town compared with a few years ago.

## **NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960**

A small number of incidents were dealt with during the year, mainly involving unsatisfactorily muffled pneumatic drills.

## HOUSING

### TABULAR STATEMENT FOR YEAR 1971

NEW HOUSES COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority ..	Nil	—	—
(b) By any other Author- ority .. .. .	Nil	—	—
(c) By Private Persons ..	Nil	4	4

  

Total Number of Inhabited Houses in District .. .. .	3,449
Total Number of Houses owned by the Local Authority ..	1,080
Estimated Population .. .. .	9,950

#### 1.—Closing and Demolition of Houses

(1) Number of houses demolished as a result of clearance Schemes .. .. .	Nil
(Number of houses included in above which were from pre-war confirmed Clearance Areas) .. .. .	Nil
(2) Number of houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure .. .. .	Nil
(3) Houses closed, including partial closure .. .. .	1
(4) Other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings..	1

#### 2.—Reconditioning and Repair

Number of unfit houses rendered fit by procedure under either Housing or Public Health Acts :

(1) As a result of informal action .. .. .	21
(2) By owners as a result of statutory action .. .. .	Nil
(3) By local authority on default of owners .. .. .	Nil

#### 3.—Inspection

(1) Number of houses inspected and visited for defects under Public Health or Housing Acts .. .. .	49
(2) Number of houses and parts found to have defects ..	27
(3) Number of houses and parts found to be wholly unfit for human habitation .. .. .	1

#### 4.—Housing Acts 1969 and 1971 :

##### IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

##### (a) *Discretionary* :

Applications submitted to local authority .. .. .	69
Applications rejected by local authority .. .. .	2
Applications approved .. .. .	67
Total number of applications approved in area since inception of scheme .. .. .	284

##### (b) *Standard* :

Number of houses for which grants have been made during the year .. .. .	1
Total number to date .. .. .	73

## Housing Report

The following tables provide the statistical information in relation to the year 1971 :—

Total number of general purpose housing units that became available.. .. .	22
Total number of O.A.P. bungalows becoming available.. ..	3
	<hr/>
All classes — GRAND TOTAL .. .. .	25
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### Rehousing Details :

Number of families rehoused under points scheme .. ..	14
Number of families rehoused as special cases .. .. .	4
Number of families rehoused as key workers .. .. .	<hr/>
Number of families rehoused from tied tenancies/eviction ..	3
Number of applicants rehoused to O.A.P. bungalows .. ..	3
	<hr/>
All classes — GRAND TOTAL .. .. .	24
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Number of refusals of tenancies from priority list applicants ..	2
Number of cases of overcrowding abated.. .. .	4
Number of cases of under-occupancy rehoused in smaller accommodation.. .. .	1
Number of tenants making mutual exchange arrangements ..	11
Number of new applications accepted on to the general <sup>1</sup> housing list .. .. .	38
Number of new applications accepted on to the O.A.P. housing list .. .. .	13
Number of applicants on the general housing list	
(a) residing in the Urban District area .. .. .	81
(b) residing outside the Urban District area .. .. .	64
(c) of the total of Class (b) 21 have birth qualification ..	
	<hr/>
TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICANTS	145
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Number of applicants for O.A.P. housing..	
(a) residing in the Urban District area .. .. .	107
(b) residing outside the Urban District area .. .. .	3
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TOTAL .. .. .	110
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